

From: Shelley Cooper <landcare@secretariat.com.au>  
To: CHM <chm@ea.gov.au>  
CC:  
Date: 26/09/2003  
Subject: Comments-biodiversity and climate change

Dear Mr Anderson,

Thankyou for sending me a copy of the Consultation paper "Developing a National Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan", and for requesting the Australian Landcare Council's contribution to the development of a "National Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan".

I believe the best way for me to respond on behalf of the Council is to indicate our interest in the issue; what action we have taken so far, and where you think we can cooperate.

For several years the Council has discussed how landowners and landcare groups etc, can be made aware of the implications of climate change and more immediately of abatement measures for farm based greenhouse gas emissions. I have represented the Council on the Australian Greenhouse Office and Agriculture Task Force and more recently the Agriculture and Land Management working group of the Business and Government Dialogue on Greenhouse and Climate Change.

The Council has promoted the adoption of on-farm Environment Management Systems/ Best Management Practice programs as a step towards on-farm triple bottom line sustainability and the inclusion of greenhouse gas abatement measures where practical. This is now starting to happen. Landcare Australia Ltd also has a Greenhouse Challenge contract engaging over one hundred landcare farmers with greenhouse gas auditing. I have also attended an Australian-New Zealand (NZ) non-carbon greenhouse gas in agriculture workshop in NZ and will be attending the return Conference in Melbourne in the near future.

I recognise that the Council at this stage is giving priority to gas abatement, but it does indicate our interest in the general subject.

Kind Regards  
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Chairman – Australian Landcare Council

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